

Testimony Before the 2013 Connecticut Legislature

Monday, January 28, 2013

My Name is George Husted and I live in East Hartford. I am a veteran and currently I am employed with the Federal Aviation Administration as a radar technician.

I am the 13th generation of my family in the State of Connecticut. My ancestor Robert Husted settled in Stamford in 1640 and was a witness to the deed for the purchase from the Sinoway tribe for the land now known as Greenwich. I am a 7th generation descendent of Thaddeus Husted, a patriot of the American Revolution. Thaddeus joined the cause of Liberty in 1775 at the age of 16, as a private in the Connecticut militia. He served throughout the war and rose to the rank of Captain of the 2nd Troop, 3rd Regiment of Connecticut Light Horse Militia – having served 2 years in the Continental Army as one of the Connecticut Levies along the way.

As a citizen of the State of Connecticut and of the United States, as a veteran, as a descendent of the founders of Connecticut and of patriots that fought for our liberties, and as a husband and the father of three school age children, I urge you not to make hasty and badly crafted law in the heat of passion; laws that will do nothing to stop the tragedies and horror we all wish to end; laws that will only disarm and infringe on the rights of the law abiding. I urge you all to honor your oaths of office to protect and defend the rights of your constituents rather than undermining our sacred liberties in a fruitless attempt to end tragedies like Sandy Hook.

The Constitution of the state of Connecticut, in its Declaration of Rights, states that the rights enumerated are "great and essential principles of liberty". Among those rights, in Section 15, it states that, "Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state."

Our Federal Constitution states that the right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. I understand that our rights may not be abused and that people may not shout "fire" in a crowded theater. Yet we do hold our right of free speech, our freedom of assembly, our freedom of religion, our freedom from unwarranted search and seizure as inalienable. The right to keep and bear arms is among those same rights and these rights were enumerated in our federal and state

constitutions to limit the power of government from restricting and infringing upon them.

I respectfully submit that if the government is going to intrude on a fundamental right, what our state constitution refers to as one of "the great and essential principles of liberty ", there must be a compelling governmental interest and **the law be fitted to achieve those ends,"**

Yet more "gun control" laws will not achieve those ends. **The murderer at Sandy Hook violated multiple gun control laws, demonstrating that such laws are useless to thwart the criminal and only serve to infringe the liberties of the law abiding.**

On April 19, 1995, Timothy McVeigh did not use any rifle or even a single bullet to murder 168 people, including 19 children under the age of 6, and injuring 450 others. He committed his heinous crime with a truck load of fertilizer soaked in fuel oil.

The point of bringing up this terrible crime is to demonstrate that it is not the tool used by the criminal that is at fault. Banning box trucks, fertilizer, and fuel oil were not the solution to stopping criminal violence anymore than banning certain categories of firearms, limiting the capacity of a magazine to an arbitrary number, or banning certain ammunition types would be.

The way to stop another Sandy Hook from happening is to have an armed police presence in our schools. Our near neighbor, New York City, has successfully adopted this measure for some time. Such an action would not infringe upon the essential liberties of the law abiding citizens and would actually offer a measure of protection from another Sandy Hook happening.

I urge you to take steps to place police resource officers in our schools. Such actions would fulfill the compelling interest of the state to protect our children without treading on the freedom and liberties of the citizens.

Respectfully,
George Husted
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